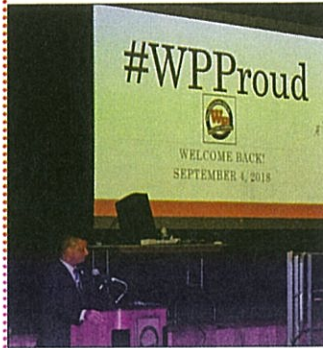


CommunityLink

Fall 2018

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Back to School



The new school year officially kicked off on September 4th with the annual Superintendent's Conference Day, when Superintendent Dr. Joseph Ricca, White Plains Mayor Tom Roach,

Board of Education President Rosemarie Eller, and Union officials addressed hundreds of teachers and staff, offering words of encouragement and advice. Mrs. Eller thanked the audience for the important work they do every day and emphasized that the Board is committed to being accessible and available. Mayor Roach said he believes teachers have the best job in the world and

that they change lives. Dr. Ricca spoke about the District's shift to a growth mindset and encouraged teachers to take risks and allow students to guide their instruction. He assured them that they have the support of district leadership.

Highlights of the morning included students performing songs from "Eastview on Broadway," the District's new professional informational video, and an entertaining motivational speaker. In the video, "White Plains Public Schools: The Educated Choice," administrators, teachers, students and parents talk about why our schools are exceptional. As Michael Divney, parent and grandparent, says, **"In White Plains, there are no limits. There are no boundaries. There are no barriers to where you can go and what you can become."** Visit www.whiteplainspublicschools.org to watch.

Speaker Eddie Slowikowski touched on many important points, including the connection between how people feel about themselves and how well they can inspire others. He said a belief in possibility is key – it's what ignites action. He echoed the sentiments of the other speakers, saying that one teacher can make all the difference for a child.

Motivational Speaker Eddie Slowikowski got everyone up and dancing!



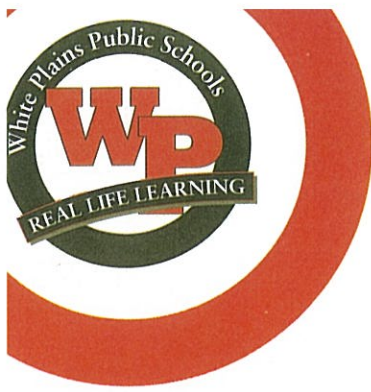
Children and families at Ridgeway were excited for a new school year

First Day!

Special Guests Arrive by Electric School Bus

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Ricca and WP Mayor Tom Roach arrived at Ridgeway on the first day of school on one of the District's new all-electric buses. White Plains is the first in the state to use these exceptionally quiet and energy-efficient vehicles.





New Teacher Orientation



A Strong Start

Staff preparations for the new year included the District's annual administrative staff retreat on August 22nd and 23rd and new teacher orientation on August 27th and 28th. At the retreat, administrators discussed instructional goals, leadership, evaluator training, hiring practices, and more. In their sessions teachers learned about the District and its expectations and had a session on cultural competence and multiculturalism.

Opening the teacher sessions, Board of Education President Rosemarie Eller

told the educators that **“this is an exceptional district and you are here because you are exceptional.”** She offered the support of the Board to help them succeed. Superintendent Joseph Ricca told the teachers they have the opportunity to make a difference in a child's life every day. He said, **“This District has a tradition of moving children forward”** and he wished them well in upholding that tradition.

Ninety-three new staff members joined the district this year.

Challenging Students, Supporting Their Efforts

We are pleased to offer even more rigorous learning opportunities this year and to have appropriate support in place to ensure students are equipped to be successful.

Earth Science for All

For the first time, all 8th graders will take Regents Earth Science, enabling those who pass the course and exam to take Honors or Advanced Placement courses in high school. It's important to prepare all students by offering this course in middle school, since it is a prerequisite to the more advanced high school courses. has been added at the High School To help students be successful, there will be additional academic supports in place, including Science teachers staffing the afterschool program and an increased number of Saturday prep sessions prior to the exam.

Advanced Math

Similarly, a new multi-variable calculus course, typically referred to as Calculus 3, has been added at the High School. It is open to seniors who have completed certain prerequisite courses. Each year another cohort will follow in their footsteps, receiving college credits for up to three Calculus classes by taking AP Calculus and Calculus 3, which is a dual enrollment class with Marist College. For high school students who did not start on this path in 7th grade but want to take Calculus 3, there are additional entry points. For example, they might take Calculus 2 at Westchester Community College, then merge into our Calculus 3 class.

These are just two examples of our District-wide commitment to challenge students to

higher levels. **“We are excited to be making these enhancements to our instructional program,”** said Debbie Hand, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, **“so that we can provide all students with learning experiences that will cognitively engage and challenge them to think, learn, grow and excel.”**

Social and Emotional Development

In order for children to learn, they need to feel safe and emotionally strong. The District continues to build a wide variety of social and emotional development and support tools for students K-12. Many of these practices are embedded in classroom learning and others are available as needed. Our multi-tiered approach includes the responsive classroom model, mindfulness education to promote self-management and coping skills, trauma-informed care, mental health satellite clinics, a minimum of one psychologist and one social worker in every building, and more.

“Our job is to educate children so they can become happy, healthy, contributing adults,” said Deborah Augarten, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services. **“Soft skills are just as important as academic competence.”**

“If we continue to raise academic expectations and at the same time make sure the appropriate support is there so students can take risks and stretch themselves, they will definitely rise to the occasion,” said Superintendent Dr. Joseph Ricca.

PARTNERSHIPS

The White Plains School District has partnerships for Dual Enrollment classes with the following colleges:

- Marist College
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- SUNY Westchester Community College
- Syracuse University
- University at Albany

Meet the Board of Education

The Board of Education is responsible for establishing the policies which govern the education of all children attending district schools. The Board urges the public to attend its meetings, listed on the District's website and in the calendar, and also encourages communication from the community. Board members' telephone numbers are provided in the calendar.

Rosemarie Eller, President

An Associate Director at Pfizer, Inc., Mrs. Eller has been a member of the Board of Education since 2005. She serves on the Board Finance/Audit, Policy and Human Resources Committees and represents the Board at the Youth Bureau and PTA Council. Her two children graduated from White Plains High School. You can follow Mrs. Eller on Twitter at @ReeEller.

Charlie Norris, Vice President

A practicing attorney, Mr. Norris was elected to the Board of Education in 2007 and has two children, both of whom graduated from WPHS. He serves on the Special Education and Safety Committees and acts as Legislative Liaison to the Westchester Putnam School Boards Association.

James F. Hricay

A resident of White Plains since 1999, Mr. Hricay was first elected to the Board in 2009. Two of his three children are enrolled in our schools, the third is a recent graduate. Mr. Hricay serves on the Finance/Audit Committee. He is Assistant Superintendent for Business at the Pelham Union Free School District.

Cayne Letizia

Dr. Letizia was elected to the Board of Education in 2015 and is an English Teacher in the Valhalla Union Free School District. He serves on the Curriculum and Human Resources Committees and was recently named to the Board of Directors of the Westchester Putnam School Boards Association. He has three children in the White Plains Schools. You can follow him on Twitter at @drletizia or on Instagram at @whiteplainschoolboard.

Sheryl Brady

Mrs. Brady, Director of Client Services at School Choice International, was elected to the Board of Education in 2007. She serves on the Finance/Audit, Curriculum and Policy Committees. She is also a Board liaison to PTA Council. All four of her children are graduates of the White Plains Schools.

Rose Lovitch

Rose Lovitch is a practicing attorney and a resident of White Plains since 1990. She was elected to the Board in 2012. Mrs. Lovitch serves on the Policy, Curriculum and Special Education Committees. Her three children are graduates of White Plains High School.

Randy Stein

Dr. Stein was elected to the Board of Education in 2008 and serves on the Finance/Audit and Human Resources Committees. An endocrinologist, she has practiced medicine in White Plains for 31 years, is on the staff of White Plains Hospital Center and is a partner in WestMed. Her three children graduated from WPHS. Dr. Stein is conversant in Spanish.

Michele Schoenfeld is Board Clerk and can be reached at 422-2071.



Board of Education.
Back: James F. Hricay, Rosemarie Eller, Charlie Norris, Cayne Letizia
Front: Rose Lovitch, Randy Stein, Sheryl Brady



Meet Eastview's Interim Principal

We're pleased to welcome Dr. Johannes (John) Sieverding, Interim Principal at Eastview Middle School. Dr. Sieverding began his career in education as a Science Teacher at both the middle and high school levels. He has also served as an Assistant Principal, Principal and Assistant Superintendent.

District Benefits from Summer Facilities Work

Managed by Director of Facilities and Operations Frank Stefanelli, the District completed many improvements to buildings and grounds over the summer that will enhance student learning, safety, recreation and comfort. Most exciting to many is that air conditioning was installed in the cafeterias of Church Street, Mamaroneck Avenue, George Washington, Ridgeway and Rochambeau Schools. At the time of publication, Highlands was waiting for equipment delivery and placement. We will now have cooled areas in all schools for those days when a respite from the heat is needed.

Also at Highlands, a new auditorium sound system has been installed and new stage lighting equipment is on its way. The High School's new roof is almost complete and improvements were made to many athletic facilities, including AC in Eastview's fitness area, re-lining of the High School track, and new sod and sprinklers on the JV baseball field. In all, more than 50 projects were undertaken this summer!



New AC unit outside GW (above)

Installation of new roof at WPHS (left)

The mission of the White Plains City School District is to educate and inspire all students, while nurturing their dreams, so they learn continually, think critically, pursue their aspirations and contribute to a diverse and dynamic world.



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www.whiteplainspublicschools.org

KUDOS

Award-Winning Teachers

Two White Plains High School teachers recently won awards from prestigious universities. Math Teacher Cindy Phillips is a recipient of the 2018 Yale Educator Award. Sponsored by the Yale Office of Undergraduate Admissions, this award recognizes educators from around the world who inspire and support their students to perform at high levels and to achieve excellence. Students entering the Yale Class of 2022 were asked to nominate outstanding educators who have deeply impacted their lives. Ms. Phillips was nominated by Anna Tender, WPHS Class



of 2018 salutatorian. In a letter to WPHS Principal Ellen Doherty, Yale officials noted: **“As our committee reviewed nominations, we were constantly reminded of the unique and critical role that exceptional educators play in shaping their students’ futures by encouraging them to pursue their goals.”**

English Teacher Gia Loscalzo was similarly recognized by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Office of Admissions, having been nominated by WPHS Class of 2018 graduate Angelina Shoemaker. In a congratulatory letter from the MIT Dean of Admissions, Loscalzo was thanked for her “time, patience, expertise, love, discipline and all the other qualities which have made such an important impact.”



Dads Take Your Child to School Day

A record number of dads participated in the 10th annual Dads Take Your Child to School Day on September 18th. At Post Road School, pictured below, more than 300 dads enjoyed a mini breakfast with their children.



Athletes Recognized by Lohud

Each week throughout Westchester, coaches nominate student athletes as Lohud (Lower Hudson) Player of the Week, the Journal News chooses finalists, and then readers vote for a winner. It was announced on September 18th that more than 2,100 people voted and WPHS Sophomore Meg Furry, in her first year on the Varsity Field Hockey Team, was the winner with nearly 1,000 votes. The previous Saturday



Meg, team goalie, had her first varsity start in a game against Scarsdale and she stopped 29 shots. According to Coach Amanda Grant, **“Meg was able to anticipate where the ball was going and clear it out safely. It was an intense game with unrelenting shots, many within a short period of time.”** Meg shares credit with her teammates: **“Our defense was fantastic. They really supported me.”**

Varsity Football Player Marcus Andre, a senior at WPHS, was also chosen by Lohud as a finalist. In his team’s win against Mt. Vernon, he had eight rushes for 118 yards and two touchdowns, and went 11-13 passing for 207 yards.